



HARVARD CREW AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STROKE.

## TO-DAY'S 'VARSITY BOAT RACE

If the Wind and Water Are Satisfactory Harvard, Yale and Cornell Will Have a Great Four-Mile Struggle at Poughkeepsie This Afternoon.

### COACH LEHMANN'S STATEMENT.

To the Editor of the Journal:

**P**OUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., June 24.—Whatever may happen in the race to-morrow, I have no complaint to make of the way in which the men have taken up new ideas and have carried them out in practice, or the way in which they have borne the hardships and difficulties of training. On the contrary, I am perfectly satisfied that whether Harvard wins or loses, the crew has done its very best from first to last.

We are well boated in Davy's boat, which carries the men to perfection. Our oars, made by Donoghue, are excellent, and the actual physical condition of the crew is in every way satisfactory. The crew has done very well since we came to Poughkeepsie, although the practice has been much interfered with by the rough water that has prevailed nearly all the time. Toward the end of last week the men went back in their work for no perceptible reason, but from the beginning of this week they have steadily improved, and they have to-day done better work than at any previous period of their practice.

Allowing for individual eccentricities that exist in every crew, these men are now rowing what I consider to be the English stroke as I have taught it myself and have heard it taught by others. They have not the weight and power of some of our record crews that I remember, but on the whole I think that striking an average they compare very favorably with good university crews, whether from Oxford or Cambridge.

This merely refers to the work done in practice. Their racing ability as a combination will be tested in the race to-morrow. I am very hopeful of the result.

RUDOLPH C. LEHMANN.

### COACH COOK, OF YALE, IN DOUBT.

To the Editor of the Journal:

**P**OUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., June 24.—In the old days of New London, or rather under former conditions, I should say that Yale was a sure winner. But this year Harvard has the fastest crew she ever had. I think Harvard and Yale are evenly matched for to-morrow's race—at least for three miles. After that the crew that holds its form and has the endurance should win. Mr. Lehmann and I agree that both Harvard and Yale will defeat Cornell, and from what he said to me to-night I believe he thinks his crew has a slightly better chance of winning than my crew.

Mr. Lehmann has produced better form than Yale possesses, but I think my failure to get as good a steady swing is due to the difficulty I experienced in changing Yale's stroke this year. For my part, I am in doubt whether it will be Harvard or Yale. If the conditions are good, the time made, I think, will be the fastest ever rowed by an eight-oared crew. Our men are in splendid condition, and I think the same can be said of our opponents from Cambridge and Ithaca. I consider the Yale crew as fast as any we ever produced.

ROBERT J. COOK.

By Julian Hawthorne.

**P**OUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., June 24.—Mr. Cook, pleased but by no means lulled to sleep by his success of yesterday, was concluding Yale 'Varsity with all his accustomed care this morning. The water was rough, as it uniformly has been since I came here, and most of the work that we saw was drilling in details: "Get your hands away," "Don't bevel," etc.

The crew rowed by fours, first the bow oars and then the stern, and the stroke was too slow to give any indication of how the men might behave when pressed in a race. But making all deductions, this practice was a formidable spectacle, and the men looked in the best of condition and as strong as steel wire and India rubber.

If they do not win to-morrow, it will be because of some radical inferiority in their stroke, and that is just what makes me think that they must come in second in the race. Mr. Cook has done immense benefit to American rowing, but Mr. Lehmann's theory of the art seems to me superior to his, and that is all there is to it.

At Harvard's quarters the 'Varsity was just going out, with Mr. Lehmann in the launch. The work was essentially good, though not so dashing as yesterday's. This bad water is very annoying, and its frequent recurrence is, I fear, enough to condemn what is otherwise the finest course

in the world. The deficiencies of New London, in the way of water, grass and lack of room, are also great, but one must make a choice. The Harvard men are a wonderful lot of athletes, with the ruddy color and springy carriage that show good condition. Yale and Harvard are probably as fine crews as those universities have ever turned out, and it would not be surprising if both of them broke the four-mile record to-morrow. I hardly expect Cornell to do this.

#### Against Professional Coaching.

The 'Varsity are greatly better than the freshmen, but not so good as their competitors in this great struggle. On all accounts but one I should be glad to see Cornell win the race. They are perhaps the most typically American of our great colleges. They are enterprising, plucky and hard working. But besides that I do not like to see amateurs coached by a professional. I believe the stroke that Courtney teaches is wrong in principle. And I care more for good rowing than for the success of any college, be it Cornell, Yale or Harvard. So long as Harvard did as Cornell is doing I was against her success and was glad to see her beaten by Yale under Cook. Cornell is, of course, feeling a little sore over yesterday, but she accepts defeat manfully, and neither the men in the boat nor Mr. Courtney himself offer excuses. One must admire and respect this attitude. When the time

comes that the professional blight is out-grown Cornell will have no friend more cordial than I.

The first and second Cornell 'Varsities were out for a row about 7 this evening. There was nothing new in the exhibition. They row a rather short stroke, evenly and smoothly, and bring their oars out with an old-fashioned jerk. I cannot see that they have a ghost of a chance with Harvard and Yale, but I believe they are afterward to row Columbia or Pennsylvania, or both. The former crew are stronger than Cornell, but not so well drilled. Yale was out at the same time as Cornell, but four miles away from here. We were in time to see only the final eighth of a mile of her practice. It was strong and good. I incline to think that Mr. Cook has not been anxious to show us his crew at their best, and that he expects to give us a surprise to-morrow.

#### Yale Discountenances to Harvard?

Of course, in judging of amateur crews, one hesitates to make deductions for such devices as are known to characterize professional methods of training. I will only say, therefore, that Yale does not appear to have the grip or body swing of Harvard. Allowing for all accidents or misunderstandings, I think Yale will not be nearer than two lengths to Harvard at the finish.

Mr. Lehmann, I understand, is satisfied with the Cambridge men. If they row in the race as he has taught them to row and as they rowed to-day in practice, and if they are then defeated, Mr. Lehmann will be ready to admit that he rather than the crew is to blame. Of course he declines to



CORNELL'S 'VARSITY CREW.  
(From a Snapshot Taken for the Journal.)



YALE'S 'VARSITY CREW.  
(From a Snapshot Taken for the Journal.)



HARVARD 'VARSITY CREW AT THE END OF THE STROKE.